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Security Council

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Letter dated 4 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 35, paragraph 1, which provides that any Member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute or any situation the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, I should like to inform you of a new incident in which Qatar threatened the security and safety of international civil aviation.

In that connection, I should like to refer to my letter dated 29 March 2018 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/291), in which I informed the Council of a serious aviation incident that had taken place on 26 March 2018, in the course of which two Qatari combat aircraft had come dangerously close to a civilian Airbus A320 of the United Arab Emirates (registration No. A6-HMS), activating its collision avoidance system alarm and forcing the captain to climb to a higher altitude to avoid a potential collision. I should also like to refer to the letter dated 18 January 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/46), in which the Council was informed of two serious aviation incidents that had taken place on 15 January 2018, in the course of which Qatari combat aircraft had come dangerously close to two civilian aircraft registered in the United Arab Emirates (Emirates airlines flight EK837/UAE837 and Etihad Airways flight EY371/ETD23B) that had been flying along internationally agreed airways. In each of those three incidents, Qatari combat aircraft created a sudden uncontrolled situation and put the safety of the passengers on-board those civilian aircraft at risk.

Unfortunately, Qatar continues to engage in irresponsible acts that threaten the safety of civilian aircraft operating under the flag of the United Arab Emirates and the lives of passengers. At 0750 hours UT, on 22 April 2018, a Qatari combat aircraft (transponder code 2340) approached within unsafe distance of a United Arab Emirates civilian Airbus A320 (registration No. A6-EIM) as it was on a regularly scheduled flight (Etihad Airways flight EY322/ETD88/ETD322), activating its collision avoidance system alarm and forcing the captain to drop to a lower altitude to avoid a collision. At the time of the incident, the aircraft of the United Arab Emirates was on a scheduled flight from King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, to Abu Dhabi International Airport, flying in international airspace along internationally agreed airway UN 318, within the Bahrain flight information region.

It should be noted that Qatar did not provide any prior navigation notice regarding its combat aircraft to air traffic control in Bahrain.

Please find annexed charts illustrating the above-mentioned incident. The charts show that Qatar flagrantly violated international civil aviation laws and regulations. It should be noted that the United Arab Emirates has notified the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) of this incident in accordance with the established procedures for ensuring the safety and security of international civil aviation. The first and second charts show the location of the incident relative to international airway UN 318 and the territorial waters of Qatar. The third and fourth charts show the location of the incident, the latitude and longitude of the Etihad Airways aircraft and the Qatari combat aircraft, and the vertical and horizontal separation between the two.

The 27 April 2018 incident took place after the ICAO Council, in accordance with article 54, paragraph (n), of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, had agreed to the request made by the United Arab Emirates that it hold an extraordinary meeting to consider previous incidents in which Qatari combat aircraft flew dangerously close to United Arab Emirates civilian aircraft, threatening the safety and security of international civil aviation. The ICAO Council had agreed to the request of the United Arab Emirates on 17 May 2018.

Although ICAO has been informed of these incidents and has agreed to the request from the United Arab Emirates to hold a special meeting to discuss them, Qatar persists in carrying out irresponsible acts that threaten the security and safety of international civil aviation, thereby proving beyond a doubt its utter disregard for the safety of civilian passengers and the freedom of international aviation. Qatar has furthermore blatantly defied the international community through its failure to comply with its international obligations.

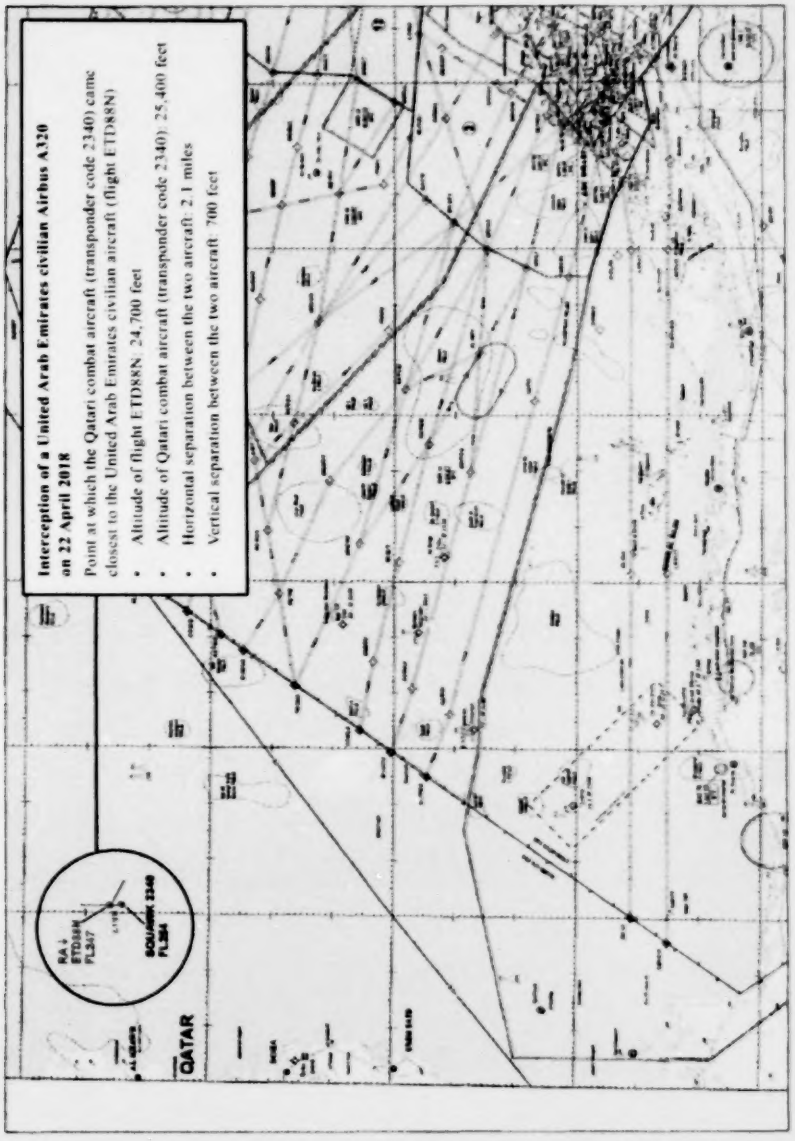
It is clear that the regrettable and dangerous incidents mentioned above, and the deliberate ongoing Qatari campaign to target and threaten the safety of civil aircraft registered in the United Arab Emirates, and threaten the freedom of international aviation and the safety and lives of civilian passengers, will inevitably lead to international friction and give rise to a dispute in the sense of Article 34 of the Charter.

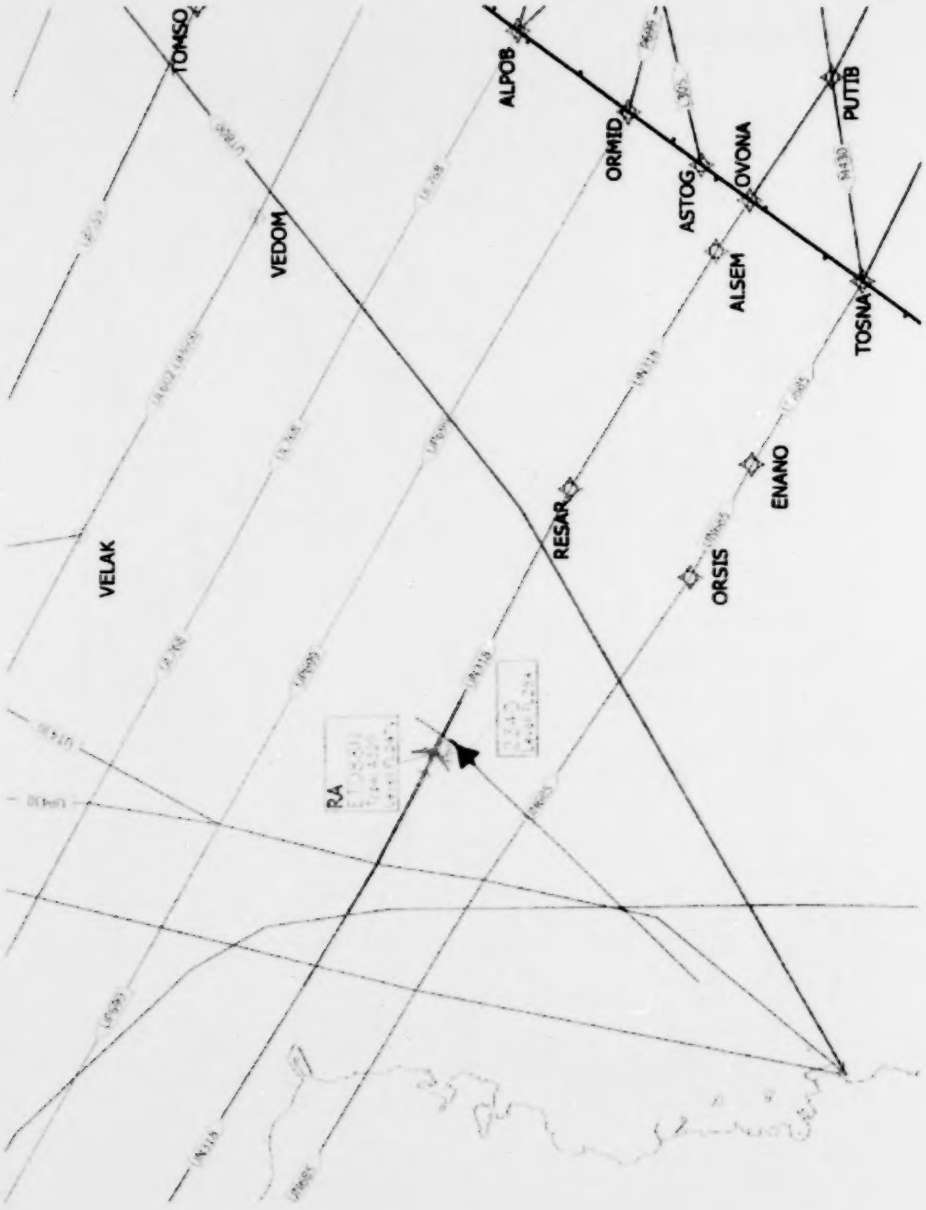
Lastly, the United Arab Emirates would like to reaffirm its full commitment to the security and safety of international air traffic and its absolute compliance with the international laws, principles and procedures in force in that regard.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lana Zaki **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 4 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council


Interception of a United Arab Emirates civilian Airbus A320
on 22 April 2018
Point at which the Qatari combat aircraft (transponder code 2340) came closest to the United Arab Emirates civilian aircraft (flight ETD88N)
• Altitude of flight ETD88N: 24,700 feet
• Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft (transponder code 2340): 25,400 feet
• Horizontal separation between the two aircraft: 2.1 miles
• Vertical separation between the two aircraft: 700 feet
QATAR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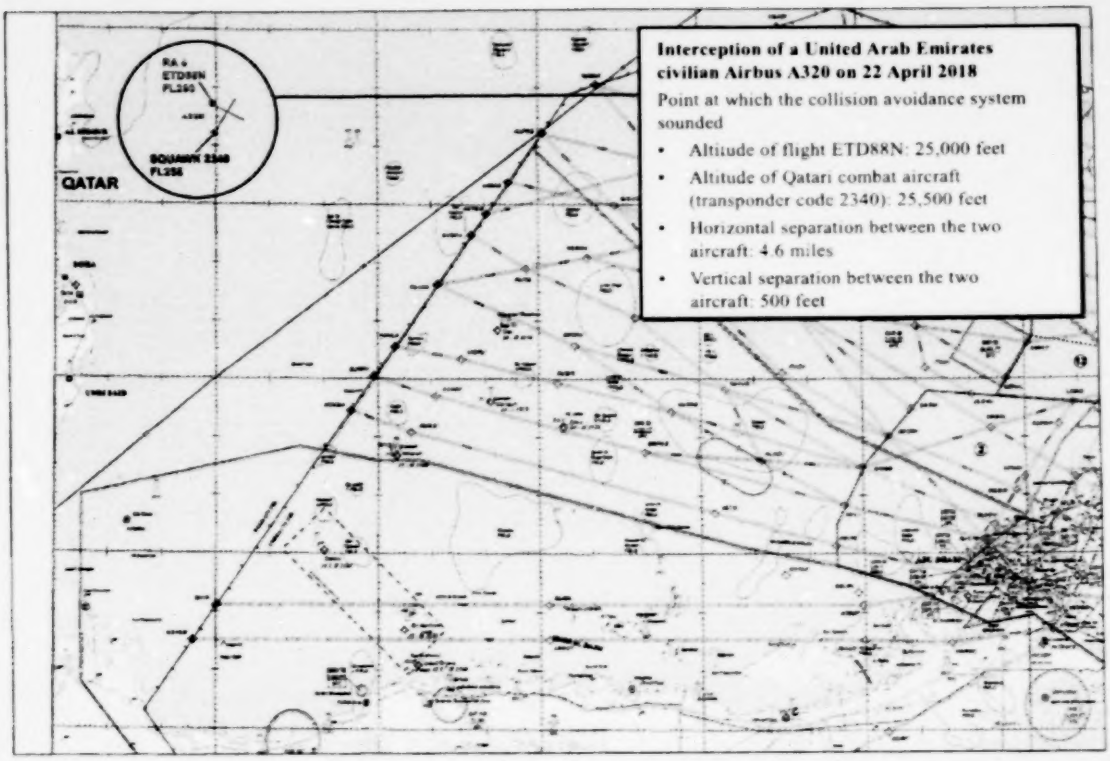
QATAR
Interception of a United Arab Emirates civilian Airbus A320 on 22 April 2018
Point at which the collision avoidance system sounded
• Altiiude of flight ETD88N: 25,000 feet
• Altitude of Qatari combat aircraft (transponder code 2340): 25,500 feet
• Horizontal separation between the two aircraft: 4.6 miles
• Vertical separation between the two aircraft: 500 feet